

Data Compilation and Validation

Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(ii)(XII) of the IRC directs that the National Taxpayer Advocate, “with respect to any statistical information included in [this annual report to Congress], include a statement of whether such statistical information was reviewed or provided by the Secretary under Section 6108(d) and, if so, whether the Secretary determined such information to be statistically valid and based on sound statistical methodology.”

The data cited in the National Taxpayer Advocate’s annual reports generally comes from one of three sources: (i) publicly available data such as the IRS Data Book, Government Accountability Office reports, and Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration reports; (ii) IRS databases to which TAS has access; and (iii) IRS data that IRS operating divisions provide pursuant to TAS information requests. After TAS compiles statistical information, TAS’s Office of Research and Analysis validates it. Procedures regarding additional IRS review of statistical information vary by report section as follows:

- **Preface** – The data contained in the Preface is not separately sent to the IRS for validation because it is written at the end of the process and generally pulls data from other sections of the report that have been validated.
- **Taxpayer Rights and Service Assessment** – The data contained in this section was reviewed by the IRS.
- **Most Serious Problems At A Glance** – The data contained in this section is not separately sent to the IRS for validation because it generally pulls data from other sections of the report that have been validated. Data from the Comprehensive Taxpayer Attitude Survey was reviewed by TAS’s Office of Research and Analysis.
- **Highlights of TAS Successes Throughout the Past Year** – The data contained in this section is not separately sent to the IRS for validation. The data was reviewed by TAS’s Office of Research and Analysis.
- **Most Serious Problems** – The data contained in this section was reviewed by the IRS.
- **Most Litigated Issues** – The IRS provided the raw data for taxpayers who filed a petition with the U.S. Tax Court during FY 2021. TAS’s Office of Research and Analysis mapped this data to IRS records to determine the Most Litigated Issues. This further analysis was not submitted to the IRS for review, but the narratives were reviewed by the IRS Office of Chief Counsel.
- **TAS Case Advocacy** – The data contained in this section was not submitted to the IRS for validation because the data pertains almost exclusively to TAS’s internal operations.
- **Purple Book** – All legislative recommendations were reviewed for legal accuracy by the IRS Office of Chief Counsel. The Purple Book contains limited statistical information that was provided by TAS’s Office of Research and Analysis. It was not submitted to the IRS for review.

On the rare occasion where TAS and the IRS have a disagreement about data or the presentation of the data, we generally discuss it, and if a disagreement persists, we note it in the report.